



**CITY OF GRESHAM
Public Safety Committee
Oregon Trail Room – City Hall
July 27, 2010 @ 6:00pm**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Joan Albertson – Public Safety Committee member
Richard Dwyer – Public Safety Committee member
John Kilian – Public Safety Committee member
Dwight Unti – Public Safety Committee Chair
Michael Patrick – Public Safety Committee Co-Chair
Police Chief Craig Junginger – Police Liaison

ABSENT: Councilor Nielsen-Hood – Council Liaison
Fire Chief Scott Lewis – Fire Liaison
Gary Bisbee – Public Safety Committee member

OTHERS PRESENT: Becky Danner, Recording Secretary
Tomas Griffith – Police Subcommittee member

Chair Dwight Unti called the Meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Chair Unti declared a quorum present and requested a motion to approve the minutes of June 22, 2010. All ayes, motion carried.

Chair Unti shared that Public Safety Committee member Jacquenette McIntire resigned from her position on this committee. The committee is asking for direction from Mayor Bemis on the replacement process for a new member.

Emergency Management Coordinator Todd Felix will be attending the Public Safety Committee meetings on a regular basis. He will be the Emergency Management Liaison for the committee.

Department Reports/Updates:

Police Chief Junginger reported on the conversion of the Gresham Police Department Records Management System (RMS) to the Portland Police Data System (PPDS). Effective July 1, GPD went "live" with the new database and even though there are a few kinks, the transition is going smoothly and should be operating error free soon. Switching to PPDS enables GPD to be part of a shared regional database where other police agencies can access GPD records and possibly link individuals, property and vehicles to the cases they are working.

Chief Junginger updated members on the current staffing levels. Gresham Police currently has eight vacant police officer positions, with two more anticipated by the end of this month. Chief Junginger met with the two resigning officers and the reason they are leaving was simply an opportunity presented itself which was better for their family. They are happy with the leadership at GPD and with the department.

Chief Junginger and command staff are working with Human Resources on police recruitment and filling these vacancies. GPD has a fair and structured interview process for applicants, but many fail in the first phase. The department has examined "what are things that make officers successful" and have vetted applications to include those traits or experiences. GPD is firm in its belief that standards will not be lowered to accommodate more applicants passing the process. GPD wants the best and will continue with the current recruitment process.

New Business:

John Kilian questioned if the City Charter states how many officers per 1000? Gresham is currently at 1.14 officers per 1000 and if it was dictated in the Charter then Gresham Police would not have to reduce police officer staffing as long as it was in compliance of the Charter.

A discussion ensued regarding the lack of direction the committee is getting from City Council. Members are frustrated and need input. The committee has met ten times; council representation was present at three meetings, last one on January 26, 2010.

It was suggested by John Killian at the last meeting, and echoed at this meeting by Chair Unti that this committee be called the Community Safety Committee to better cover the scope of the committee's efforts. How does the committee get this change enacted? Additionally, members would like to know the process of combining the three committees to one.

Chair Unti opened discussion regarding drafting a memo to City Council outlining specific recommendations from the committee and requesting City Council to advise on which recommendations to carry on. With the results, the committee can move forward.

Suggestions made but not voted on were:

- 1) Consideration of a new bond measure "Community Enhancement Bond"
- 2) Research and promote enacting a police/fire staffing measure in the City Charter
- 3) Partner with Multnomah County Sheriff's Office, creating an "East County Police Department".

Chair Unti will draft a memo and forward it to members for suggestions and additions. Chair Unti will present the finalized memo at the next Council Policy Development meeting.

Co-Chair Michael Patrick suggested suspending any further meetings until the committee gets further direction from council. The committee will meet again in August and make a decision at that time.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 p.m. was made by Chair Unti. The next meeting of the Public Safety Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, August 24, 2010, beginning at 6:00 p.m., Oregon Trail Room.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Becky Danner – Recording Secretary, Gresham Police Department.